

INDIVIDUALS

Comment Letters

Robert S. Lynch & Associates
Attorneys at Law

Robert S. Lynch -
Paul M. Li

340 E. Palm Lane
Suite 140
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4551
Office: (602) 254-5908
Facsimile: (602) 257-9542
Email: rslynch@rslynchaty.com

Government Relations Associates **
Hon. Jim Hartdegen
Hon. Joe Lane

* Admitted to practice in Arizona and
the District of Columbia

** not members of the bar

TELECOPIED AND MAILED

August 18, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470
Fax no.: 702-293-8418

Mr. Steve Spangle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
Fax no.: 602-242-2513

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for
the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Federal Register notice issued jointly by your agencies on June 18, 2004, 69 Fed.Reg. 34185-7, I am submitting the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which are intended to be cumulative to my oral remarks at the public hearing in Phoenix on July 22, 2004. My comments will be generally aimed at the description of the preferred alternative.

The Draft EIS includes Reach 1, which is an area involving Lake Mead up to the marsh and bosque that has developed where the Colorado River empties into Lake Mead, and Reach 7, which consists of an area below Morelos Dam between the Northern and Southern International Borders with Mexico. Those Reaches should be eliminated from the EIS. Federal courts, in final nonappealable orders, have issued decisions that the Secretary of the Interior has no discretion with regard to capturing water in Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam nor discretion in releasing water from Morelos Dam pursuant to the 1944 Treaty with Mexico. Since there are no discretionary actions with regard to water storage

RSLSA-1

Mr. Glen Gould
Mr. Steve Spangle
August 18, 2004
Page 2

and water delivery in these areas, the consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the assessment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act do not apply. Thus, there is nothing to evaluate under NEPA and nothing on which to consult under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Nor is there any Section 10 jurisdiction under the Endangered Species Act. The non-federal entities who benefit from these facilities have no say in water storage at Lake Mead and no say concerning water deliveries to Mexico. Thus, while it may be helpful to study the environment of these areas, they are not properly part of any program to be analyzed in this process because there is no responsibility which must be analyzed or about which consultation should take place.

RSLA-1 con't

Additionally, the EIS should evaluate the possibility of issuing one or more permits under Section 10(A)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act. This "voluntary" permit may be appropriate as a mechanism for institutionalizing a partnership for conducting mitigation activities should it be determined that the impacts in question are sufficiently within the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior that a Section 10(A)(1)(B) permit is inappropriate. The analysis of the species in question does not change by virtue of considering both types of Section 10 permit. Some possible changes in the location of mitigation activities might take place under the voluntary permit but chances are that sort of adjustment would be slight. In any event, there is absolutely no downside risk in evaluating both types of Section 10 permits in this process.

RSLA-2

There really is no "no action" alternative and the Environmental Impact Statement should say so. The true "no action" alternative would be to do nothing, let the current Biological Opinion run out, have various federal officials sued civilly and possibly criminally, and let the courts sort out where the responsibilities are and who is not meeting them. Since no one either wants to take that risk or watch that process unfold, the alternatives are to move forward together or move forward separately. Nevertheless, the EIS should acknowledge that the true "no action" alternative would be to not do anything and let the cards fall where they may.

RSLA-3

There have been a variety of reports about various proposals for non-federal participation in the Multi-Species Conservation

RSLA-4

Mr. Glen Could
Mr. Steve Spangle
August 18, 2004
Page 3

Program and a multitude of reported proposals on possible ways to fund the program. It is our understanding at the current time that this matter is still being discussed. Before the Environmental Impact Statement is finalized, sufficient certainty in whatever these relationships are going to be should have been achieved so that any further adjustments in those relationships do not require significant changes in environmental impact that would not have been analyzed in the EIS. Whatever effort that takes, the parties should attempt to achieve reasonable certainty of program details in order to validate the preferred alternative.

RSLA-4 con't

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important process and Environmental Impact Statement. Please keep us informed about further developments as you proceed to complete the Environmental Impact Statement process.

RSLA-5

Sincerely,
ROBERT S. LYNCH & ASSOCIATES


Robert S. Lynch

RSL:psr

cc: IEDA Members
David S. "Sid" Wilson, General Manager, CAWCD
Douglas K. Miller, General Counsel, CAWCD
Robert Walker, General Manager of Power, City of Needles

public comment on Federal Register
 of 6/18/04 Vol 69 No 117-pg 34185
 USDOI USFWS - Reclamation INT-DES-
 04-32 - Lower Colorado River NOA
 the alleged research is NOT shown
 to be necessary at all.



Mr Steve Spangle
 Field Supervisor
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 2321 West Royal Palm Rd - Suite 103
 Phoenix AZ 85021

5021+4915



I oppose + object to killing, harassing,
 injury desert tortoises, crows etc.
 I note anonymous to other species
 also allowed to be similarly harassed
 so they end up DEAD! The public has a
 right to know EXACTLY what is being
 proposed. It is time to stop the diversion
 of water since these species have a right
 to live + object to taking this water! Much
 water taking always mean death. Humans
 have no right to deplete water like this
 when plants like Santa Barbaras can de-
 salinate ocean water. Buy the water from
 Santa Barbara. B Sachau 15 Elm St
 Fort Har Pt NJ 07932

BS-1



Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
Public Hearing Comment Form

July 20, 2004 in Henderson, NV; July 21, 2004 in Blythe, CA; July 22, 2004 in Phoenix, AZ

PLEASE NOTE: Comments must be received no later than Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

To submit written comments, you may:

1. Submit this completed form this evening
2. Mail your comments to: Glen Gould or Steve Spangle
Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470 Phoenix, AZ, 85021
3. Fax your comments to: Glen Gould, (702) 293-8418; or Steve Spangle, (602) 242-2513

Name:

Carey L. Ochs

Address:

5120 Colorado River Rd. Blythe, CA 92225

Comments (comments should focus on the information contained in the documents):

My husband & I are land owners, along the Colorado River in Blythe. We are concerned about the "fifty year" length (timespan) of this projected project & the impact on water sport recreational activities on the river. Why does the stipulated time span of the project need to be for such an extreme length of time? Why not 10 or 15 years, with a re-evaluation time-frame, i.e. progress report, to determine if the changes are even considerably improving. Also, as our community grows, the river becomes more & more of a draw to outside visitors. How can we be assured that your requested changes will not impact the river recreational needs - boating, fishing, swimming, etc., that our community is accustomed to?

CO-1

CO-2

Thank You,

Carey L. Ochs

SAT, JUNE 26, 2004

LORRAINE WOODMAN

SAIC

525 ANACAPA ST.

SANTA BARBARA 93101

I RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM YOU A 12 POUND
FED-EX BOX CONTAINING A COPY OF THE DRAFT
EIR/EIS FOR THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI
SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (LCR-MSCP).

I APPRECIATE YOU SENDING ME THE ABOVE, EVEN
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT MY NAME
AND MAILING ADDRESS; BUT THAT'S OK.

I ADMIT I ATTENDED A SCOPING MEETING ON
THE LCR-MSCP HELD IN ONTARIO, CALIF, WAY BACK
WHEN. BUT I DON'T REMEMBER PUTTING MY
NAME AND ADDRESS ON ANYTHING.

I'M PLOWING MY WAY THROUGH THIS (OVER)

TOME EVEN THOUGH I HAVE LIMITED INTEREST IN THE LCR-MSCP SINCE I'M SO FAR AWAY FROM THE COLORADO RIVER AND HAVE NEVER SPENT MUCH TIME OUT THERE, (THE REASON I ATTENDED THE SCOPING MEETING WAS BECAUSE I HAVE A BACKGROUND IN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND WANTED TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON, I ALSO ADMIT THAT THE LCR-MSCP WAS FORGOTTEN.)

GIVEN THE ABOVE, WHEN THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE LCR-MSCP BECOMES AVAILABLE IF YOU WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO LET ME KNOW OF ITS AVAILABILITY INSTEAD OF SENDING ME ANYMORE 12 POUND BOXES (WHICH I IMAGINE WASN'T CHEAP), I CAN THEN DECIDE IF I WANT ONE OR NOT. THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME THE DRAFT. SINCERELY,

DB-1

Kenneth Bell, 4016 S. SAN MATEO REDLANDS, CA. 92373

202 682 1331

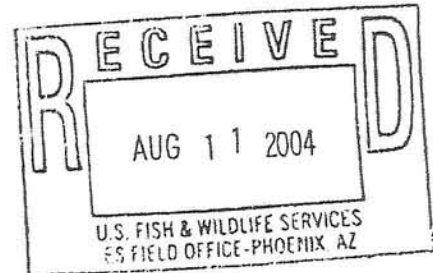
1 Wed Aug 11 17:43:02 2004

August 11, 2004

Mr. Steve Spangle

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418



Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan (HCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The Colorado River is the lifeline for a high proportion of the region's fish and wildlife, which depend on the freshwater resources in this largely arid region. I would like to emphasize the following points:

The geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California. Without encompassing the Colorado River delta, it will be impossible to accomplish Endangered Species Act conservation obligations. Several endangered species have habitat in both the U.S. and Mexico including the razorback sucker, the Southwestern willow flycatcher, the desert pupfish and the Yuma clapper rail. In ignoring the delta's capacity to provide habitat for these species, and others such as the totoaba and vaquita, the MSCP misses a critical opportunity to ensure their viability in both countries.

CL-1

The MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions. To date, the MSCP has focused heavily on hatchery rearing and release of imperiled Colorado River fish. This is important, but only to prevent extinction. The MSCP must expand its efforts to include restoration of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions along key river stretches, with a focus on restoration and maintenance of historic river functions. Only then will we be able to move toward species recovery.

CL-2

The implementing agreement must be available during the comment period. The implementing agreement presents the rights and responsibilities of all parties to the MSCP, including funding commitments and the acquisition, management and protection of mitigation lands. Until there are mechanisms to assure funding for MSCP implementation, the HCP fails to meet the permit criteria. Furthermore, it is crucial that the implementing agreement be prepared and distributed for public comment prior to approval of the MSCP.

CL-3

Sincerely,

Darcia Hurst-matulewicz
2524 130th Street Se
Everett, WA 98208

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021

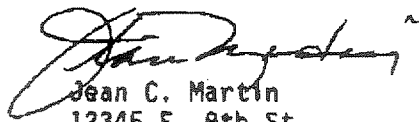
Dear Mr Spangle:

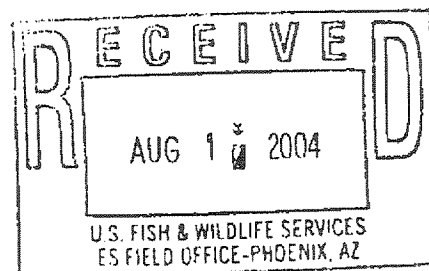
Please be advised that I strongly support the Multi-species Conservation program for the lower Colorado River in Arizona, Nevada and California. Any program that will conserve the flow of water in this abused and over-used river will be step in the right direction and a protection for the future.

JM1-1

Thank you for your attention to the above.

Yours truly,


Jean C. Martin
12345 E. 8th St.,
Tucson, Az. 85748



Mr. Glen Gould,
Bureau of Reclamation,
O.I. Box 61470,
LC-2011


Dear Mr. Gould:

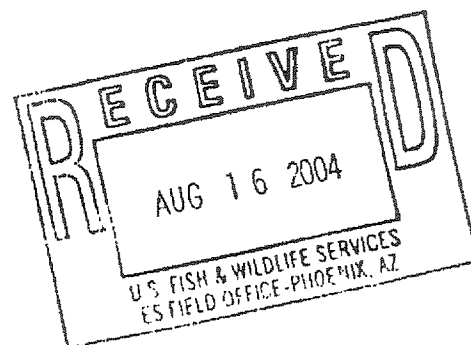
Please be advised that I strongly support the Multi-Species Conservation program for the lower Colorado River in Arizona, Nevada and California. Any program that will conserve the flow of water in this abused and over used river will be a step in the right direction and a protection for the future.

JM2-1

Thank you for your attention to the above,

Yours truly,


Jean C. Martin
12345 E. 8th Street,
Tucson, Az. 85748



Mark Belles
9318 Willard Street
Rowlett, Texas 75088

Ms. Laura Simonek
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Thank you for the Draft Environmental Impact Report and associated documentation for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Please retain my name on the mailing list for this activity.

MB-1

I am troubled by two fundamental aspects of the program. First, the proposal has ignored a vast reach of the Lower Colorado River (as defined by the program as that portion of the Colorado River downstream from Lee Ferry). Why omit that portion of the River from Glen Canyon Dam to Lake Mead? The Law of the River clearly defines this reach of river as being part of the Lower Colorado. Furthermore the program documentation has failed to acknowledge the effects of the elephant in the room, namely Lake Powell. All environmental effects downstream of Glen Canyon Dam are affected by Lake Powell. Sedimentation, hydrology, and water temperature are just a few of the significant effects of the Lake. This assessment should include all effects of Lake Powell on the downstream ecosystems.

MB-2

MB-3

Secondly, elimination of dam Removal from consideration of the program is based on very faulty logic, grouped in the Environmental Impact Report as five separate topics noted as follows.

1. Page 2-113, lines 20 through 33 can be summarized as asserting that the culinary and agricultural uses of the water stored in the reservoirs are vital to major metropolitan areas. The obvious conclusion is that dam removal would have a major negative impact to the metropolitan areas and thus cannot be considered.

MB-4

Response – While the reservoirs from Hoover on downstream are used for culinary and agriculture water uses, this is not true for Glen Canyon Dam. Taken with the earlier comment of this letter asserting that consideration of Lake Powell and the reach from Glen Canyon Dam to Lake Mead is appropriate for this program, consideration of dam removal is not a detrimental act for culinary and agricultural water uses across the board. The only beneficial use of water from Lake Powell is a very small take for the city of Page. The water use for Page is very minimal and could easily be accommodated by takes from the unencumbered river. Thus the conclusion for this section that dam removal would be detrimental for culinary and agriculture uses is not correct as it applies to Glen Canyon Dam.

<p>2. Page 2-113, lines 34-39 asserts that dam removal could not be accomplished because a system-wide removal would render the flood control system of levees ineffective and unable to handle the unregulated flows.</p> <p>Response – Again the conclusions as stated are true, but only under the extreme conditions stated. Clearly system-wide dam removal would be a catastrophic act from a flood control point of view; however removal of Glen Canyon Dam would have no detrimental effect on flood control.</p>	MB-5
<p>3. Page 2-114, lines 1-6 asserts that dam removal would significantly impact human habitation downstream of Davis Dam.</p> <p>Response – True for Hoover and downstream impoundments, but not true for removal of Glen Canyon Dam.</p>	MB-6
<p>4. Page 2-114, lines 7-16 asserts that dam removal would be costly, technically challenging and could have negative environmental conditions due to release of the trapped sediment. Additionally, restoration of the previously inundated areas is cited a potential problem. Also, dam removal is cited as in conflict with of the Law of the River.</p> <p>Response – This section of the argument against dam removal raises several points, none of which apply to Glen Canyon Dam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The argument that dam removal is technically challenging is not valid. Dam removal is a well established process and presents no substantial technical challenges. Lake Powell would be drawn down gradually and the final draw down could be accomplished by diversion tunnels, possibly using the original diversion tunnels. 	MB-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Since no serious cost estimates for dam removal have been accomplished, it is far to premature to assert that cost is a significant issue. 	MB-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Allowing sedimentation to return to its natural state cannot be considered a negative consequence since once the sedimentation rates are returned to the natural state, this is by definition a restored system.. Clearly restoration of natural aggradation, degradation and hydrology is an appropriate action. Mitigation of the initially high rates of sedimentation associated with flushing out the reservoir and reaching the natural steady-state sedimentation rates would be accomplished by the gradual draw down of the reservoir. 	MB-9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Restoration of inundated areas is not an issue. Natural restoration is rapidly progressing at this moment in the areas exposed by the low water levels of Lake Powell due to the current drought. Concerns 	MB-10

about the long term bathtub ring and re-forestation of the river corridor have been shown by current processes in action at Lake Powell to be unfounded.

MB-10 con't

- v. With regard to the Law of the River, the conflicts cited are not valid. Nothing in the Law of the River requires power generation. Glen Canyon Dam does not provide flood control and protection or improves navigation, thus these goals of the Law of the River would not be negatively impacted. As for storage and delivery of water and river regulation, historic data shows that the 7.5 maf average over a ten year period would have been achieved without Glen Canyon Dam. It is important to note, especially in today's enduring drought conditions, that seepage and evaporation account for the loss of 800,000 to 1,000,000 af of water annually; water that is desperately needed in today's Lower Colorado River economies.

MB-11

5. Page 2-114, lines 17-23 asserts that dam removal would carry with it a risk of invasion by non-native plant species. No scientific basis for this assertion is presented. In fact, section 3.2.1 (page 3.2, lines 28-30) states that, "*Swift, sediment-filled flows scoured the canyons in the LCR, which hindered the establishment of most riparian plant communities.*" The highly dynamic characteristics of the freely-flowing Colorado River are thought to have been effective at resisting invasion by non-native plant species. If such a risk exists it would be mitigated by the gradual draw down of the reservoir.

MB-12

Each assertion found in Section 2.2.1.2 for eliminating dam removal is successfully rebutted as they apply to Glen Canyon Dam. In conjunction with the comment that consideration of Lake Powell and the river reach from Glen Canyon Dam to Lake Mead should be included in this program; my conclusion is that consideration of the removal of Glen Canyon Dam should be considered by the program.

MB-13

It is important to reiterate that seepage and evaporation account for the loss of 800,000 to 1,000,000 af of water annually; water that is desperately needed in today's Lower Colorado River economies. It would be very unwise for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to let this water wastage to continue.


MB-14

I understand that removal of Glen Canyon Dam is a highly controversial subject and in practical, political terms is highly unlikely to occur. Nonetheless the arguments to exclude this option from the program are not valid and without an environmental and cost analysis a fair, informed decision cannot be made. I strongly encourage the team to add this option back into the list of alternatives.

MB-15

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.





RECEIVED

AUG 12 2004

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES
ES FIELD OFFICE-PHOENIX, AZ

MA-3

August 12, 2004

Mr. Steve Spangle

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan (HCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The Colorado River is the lifeline for a high proportion of the region's fish and wildlife, which depend on the freshwater resources in this largely arid region. I would like to emphasize the following points:

The geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California.

BF-1

The MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions.

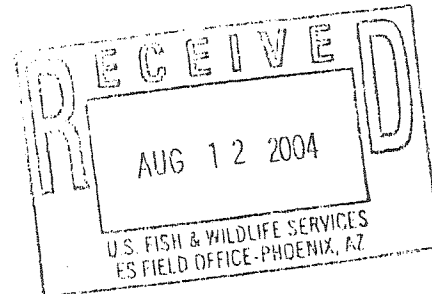
BF-2

It is crucial that the implementing agreement be prepared and distributed for public comment prior to approval of the MSCP.

BF-3

Sincerely,

Bobbie Flowers
418 W 17th St Apt 22a
New York, NY 10011



August 15, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

As someone who has hiked and rafted a number of areas in the lower Colorado River basin, and a planning commissioner in a county (Mendocino) where HCP's are used to strike a balance between environmental protection and logging, I would like to comment. The MSCP should include both the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California. Without including the Colorado River delta, it will be impossible to achieve the habitat conservation required under the ESA, since endangered species like the S. The MSCP should promote substantial restoration of historic, pre-development river ecosystem conditions, and not just on hatchery rearing of threatened/endangered fish. Furthermore, the proposed implementing agreement should be available to the public during the MSCP comment period, disclosing funding commitments and the acquisition, management and protection of mitigation lands.

Sincerely,

DL-1

DL-2

DL-3

Donald Lipmanson
P.O. Box 395
Navarro, CA 95463

202 682 1331

1 Mon Aug 16 02:44:10 2004

August 16, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

I wish to comment on the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan (HCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The Colorado River is the lifeline for a high proportion of the region's fish and wildlife, which depend on the freshwater resources in this largely arid region.

I believe the geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California. Without encompassing the Colorado River delta, it will be impossible to accomplish Endangered Species Act conservation obligations. Sever

AP-1

I also believe the MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions. To date, the MSCP has focused heavily on hatchery rearing and release of imperiled Colorado River fish. This is important,

AP-2

The implementing agreement must be available during the comment period. The implementing agreement presents the rights and responsibilities of all parties to the MSCP, including funding commitments and the acquisition, management and protection of m

AP-3

Sincerely,

Ann Pinkerton
5467 Lawton Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618

202 682 1331

1 Sun Aug 15 07:58:05 2004

August 15, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

I am concerned to learn of the loss of habitat for species of native fish and migratory birds in the Colorado River. It seems to me that in order to protect these species and keep the river healthy and abundant, the ecosystem must be restored. The ecosystem

In the long run, such efforts will pay off by saving some of the effort that goes into hatchery rearing.

The geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California.

DS-1

The MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions.

DS-2

Also, public input is crucial, so the implementing agreement should be prepared and distributed for public comment prior to approval of the MSCP.

DS-3

Thank you for your time,

Diana Singleton
397 Inverness Dr
La Canada, CA 91011

202 682 1331

1 Mon Aug 16 13:43:53 2004

August 16, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan (HCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP).

The Colorado River is the lifeline for a high proportion of the region's fish and wildlife, which depend on the freshwater resources in this largely arid region. I would like to emphasize the following points:

* The geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California.

AL-1

Without encompassing the Colorado River delta, it will be impossible to accomplish Endangered Species Act conservation obligations.

Nature is not based on national boundaries--those are a human invention. Several endangered species have habitat in both the U.S. and Mexico including the razorback sucker, the Southwestern willow flycatcher, the desert pupfish and the Yuma clapper.

* The MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions.

AL-2

To date, the MSCP has focused heavily on hatchery rearing and release of imperiled Colorado River fish. This is important, but only to prevent extinction.

* The MSCP must expand its efforts to include restoration of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions along key river stretches, with a focus on restoration and maintenance of historic river functions. Only then will we be able to move toward

AL-3

* The implementing agreement must be available during the comment period.

AL-4

The implementing agreement presents the rights and responsibilities of all parties to the MSCP, including funding commitments and the acquisition, management and protection of mitigation lands.

Until there are mechanisms to assure funding for MSCP implementation, the HCP fails to meet the permit criteria. Furthermore, it is crucial that the implementing agreement be prepared and distributed for public comment prior to approval of the MSCP.

Sincerely,

Alanna Louin
1141 Lighthouse Ave Apt 432
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

202 682 1331

1 Mon Aug 16 07:58:05 2004

August 16, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

A century ago, the Colorado was a free flowing river with wide fluctuations in water levels. In the spring, melting snows and storms would increase the river flows dramatically. These flows would inundate large portions of the broad valleys, moving t

The construction of dams, the filling of reservoirs, the introduction of exotic plants, changes in the river channel and the loss of seasonal flooding have drastically changed the Colorado, resulting in a much different ecosystem. These changes threa

The Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) must expand its efforts to include restoration and maintenance of historic river ecosystem conditions along key river stretches.

CA-1

Thank you for your consideration.

Christel Allacher
8283 South Carr Court
Littleton, CO 80128

202 682 1331

1 Sat Aug 14 21:06:10 2004

August 15, 2004

Mr. Glen Gould

Mr. Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Via Facsimile 602-242-2513

Mr. Glen Gould
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my support for the MSCP proposal for the lower Colorado River area. Thank you for the opportunity to express my view and I hope you will support my request.

Sincerely, Terry Woods

TW1-1

Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Via Facsimile 702-293-8418

Dear Mr. Gould and Mr. Spangle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan (HCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The Colorado River is the lifeline for a high proportion of the region's fish and wildlife, which depend on the freshwater resources in this largely arid region. I would like to emphasize the following points:

The geographic scope of the MSCP must include the Colorado River delta and upper Gulf of California. Without encompassing the Colorado River delta, it will be impossible to accomplish Endangered Species Act conservation obligations. Several endangered species have habitat in both the U.S. and Mexico including the razorback sucker, the Southwestern willow flycatcher, the desert pupfish and the Yuma clapper rail. In ignoring the delta's capacity to provide habitat for these species, and others such as the totoaba and vaquita, the MSCP misses a critical opportunity to ensure their viability in both countries.

TW2-1

The MSCP must commit to the restoration and maintenance of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions. To date, the MSCP has focused heavily on hatchery rearing and release of imperiled Colorado River fish. This is important, but only to prevent extinction. The MSCP must expand its efforts to include restoration of a semblance of historic river ecosystem conditions along key river stretches, with a focus on restoration and maintenance of historic river functions. Only then will we be able to move toward species recovery.

TW2-2

The implementing agreement must be available during the comment period. The implementing agreement presents the rights and responsibilities of all parties to the MSCP, including funding commitments and the acquisition, management and protection of mitigation lands. Until there are mechanisms to assure funding for MSCP implementation, the HCP fails to meet the permit criteria. Furthermore, it is crucial that the implementing agreement be prepared and distributed for public comment prior to approval of the MSCP.

TW2-3

202 682 1331

2 Sat Aug 14 21:06:10 2004

Sincerely,

Terry Woods
7300 Us 158 Apt 410
Stokesdale, NC 27357-9